ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
AMERICAN NEGRO EMANCIPATION
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

HONORABLE OTTO KERNER
Governor
STATE OF ILLINOIS

THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

of the

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION IN ILLINOIS

One Hundred Years After

A REPORT

OF THE

American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission of Illinois

TO

The 73rd Session of the General Assembly

of the State of Illinois

1961-1963

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STATE OF ILLINOIS

American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission

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April 1, 1963

Representative Corneal A. Davis
Chairman

Representative William H. Robinson
Vice-Chairman

Senator John P. Meyer
Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Edith S. Sampson
Secretary

Senator Arthur R. Gottschalk
Senator Paul Graham
Senator Marshall Korshak
Senator Fred J. Smith
Representative J. Horace Gardner
Representative William Pierce
Representative Kenneth E. Wilson
Reverend Mr. Wm. P. Alexander
Dr. Phil M. Hauser
Mr. John H. Johnson
Mr. Stanley L. Johnson

Honorable Charles F. Carpentier
Honorable Clyde C. Walton
ex-officio

Mrs. Christine Warren
Executive Secretary

To: The Honorable Otto Kerner
Governor of the State of Illinois

The Honorable Samuel H. Shapiro
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois

The Honorable John W. Lewis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members of the 73rd General Assembly

As required by H. B. 1409 enacted in the 72nd General Assembly, the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission herewith transmits its report.

This report is the story of the activities of interested and dedicated citizens of all races, who have worked zealously to carry forward programs and events which give meaning, depth and purpose to the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is a time of challenge and assessment of the social and historic distance over which we have come in the fulfillment of the goals and ideals of the Emancipation Proclamation and the distance yet to go.

Respectfully submitted,

Corneal A. Davis,
Chairman

William H. Robinson,
Vice Chairman

CAD:WHR:cw

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STATE GOVERNMENT

CREATES AMERICAN NEGRO EMANCIPATION CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

§ 1. Commission created — Members.
§ 2. Select Chairman — Officers.
§ 3. Program.
§ 4. Report.
§ 5. Appropriates $150,000 — Expenditures — Governor to approve.

(House Bill No. 1409. Approved August 23, 1961.)

An Act *creating the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission of Illinois and making an appropriation therefor.*

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. There is created the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission of Illinois, hereafter called the Commission, consisting of 5 members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore thereof, 5 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker thereof, 5 citizens appointed by the Governor, and of the Illinois State Archivist or his representative, and the Illinois State Historian or his representative. Of the 5 members appointed by each appointing authority no more than 3 shall be of the same political party. Of the 5 members appointed by the Governor, one shall be a representative of the religious community, one of the business community, one of science, one of labor, and one of civic organizations. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

§ 2. The Commission shall organize and select from its membership a chairman and such other officers as it deems necessary. The Commission may employ such clerical and technical assistants as it deems necessary without regard to the civil service laws or the Personnel Code of this State.

§ 3. The Commission shall prepare an overall program for commemorating the 100th anniversary of the emancipation of the American Negro. In making its plans and program the Commission shall give consideration to similar and related plans advanced by civic, patriotic, and historic groups. In collaboration with the national American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, the Commission shall develop and plan an exhibit at the Emancipation Centennial Exposition which is to be held in Chicago in the summer of 1963 under the auspices of the Authority. This exhibit shall be developed in such a manner as to show the history and progress of the American Negro from slavery to citizenship, with emphasis on the role of Illinois' Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

§ 4. The Commission shall make a report of its activities and recommendations to the Seventy-third General Assembly on or before March 1, 1963.

§ 5. The sum of $150,000, or so much thereof as is necessary, is appropriated to the Commission for carrying out the provisions of this Act. No obligation shall be incurred for any expenditure from the appropriation herein made until after the purpose and the amount of such expenditure have been approved in writing by the Governor.

Passed General Assembly June 30, 1961.

Approved August 23, 1961.

American Negro Emanicipation Centennial Commission

MEMBERS AND STAFF

Representative Corneal A. Davis, Chicago, *Chairman*

Representative William H. Robinson, Chicago, *Vice-Chairman*

Senator John P. Meyer, Danville, *Vice-Chairman*

Judge Edith S. Sampson, Chicago, *Secretary*

Senator Arthur Gottschalk, Chicago

Senator Paul Graham, Mattoon

Senator Marshall Korshak, Chicago

Senator Fred J. Smith, Chicago

Representative J. Horace Gardner, Chicago

Representative William Pierce, Rockford

Representative Kenneth E. Wilson, Chicago

Rev. William P. Alexander, East St. Louis

Dr. Phillip M. Hauser, Chicago

Mr. John H. Johnson, Chicago

Mr. Stanley L. Johnson, Chicago

Honorable Charles F. Carpentier, Secretary of State and Illinois State Archivist, Springfield, *Ex Officio*

Dr. Clyde C. Walton, Illinois State Historian, Springfield *Ex Officio*

STAFF

Mrs. Christine Warren, *Executive Secretary*

Mrs. Lillie S. Weston, *Secretary*

FOREWORD

The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission was created by House Bill 1409 to promote and carry forward the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in Illinois.

The inspiration for House Bill 1409 sprang from discussions and conferences of Legislators with members of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority of which Mr. Alton A. Davis is executive director. The Authority proposed the promotion of an Exposition at McCormick Place in Chicago from August 16 thru September 2, 1963, which would portray 100 years of freedom and the progress of the Negro during this period.

House Bill 1409 gives recognition to these exploratory conversations by providing that the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission shall collaborate with all legitimate agencies, that are participating in programs which celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission is collaborating with the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, through the purchase of space and placing an exhibit thereon at the Exposition to be held at McCormick Place from August 16 thru September 2nd. However, this exhibit is but one facet of the program of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission.

This report of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission is the story of a creative effort to communicate to the citizens of Illinois the meaning and significance of the Emancipation Proclamation in the perspective of 100 years after the signing of the historic document by the immortal Lincoln. The report will describe the philosophy and evolving programs of the Commission which have been consumated and are in process.

The purpose and philosophy which have guided the Commission was clearly articulated and enunciated by Chairman Davis in his speech delivered in the Council Chambers on September 21, 1962, when an exhibit of the Emancipation Proclamation was opened in the Rotunda of the City Hall of Chicago. He said in part:

"The Commission is concerned that the message of the Emancipation Proclamation shall be disseminated to the masses of people. We want the Centennial Anniversary to be a mass effort. The Emancipation Proclamation is a thoroughly American document and we wish all Americans to view it, absorb its meaning and bow at the Shrine of its eternal purposes, freedom and equality for all men, regardless of race or color.

The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission in carrying forward its legislative mandates wishes the Centennial Anniversary observance to be nondenominational, non-partisan and interracial. We are committed to the positive education approach. If the Emancipation Proclamation means anything, it must enhance the dignity of man.

The Commission feels that the youth of our State of all religions and races should know the Emancipation Proclamation and its implications for strong and sturdy citizenship in our State. The Emancipation Proclamation freed Negro slaves but the problem of lifting the minority group to full citizenship responsibility in American life continues to challenge our best thinking and highest good will."

A further extension of the goals and programs of the Commissions was set forth by Representative William H. Robinson, Vice-Chairman of the Commission, in a statement to the Awards Program and Reception at the Leland Hotel, Springfield, Illinois on January 9, 1963. He said:

"Representative Davis and I together, believe that the Commission should do more than sponsor a passing exhibit or extravaganza which will be momentary and fleeting. The Goal of the Commission is to produce works which will stimulate thought and inspire the youth of our State with a new sense of history, as we assess the growth and progress of the Negro in American life during 100 years of freedom.

The Commission plans to carry forward its goals in a very pragmatic manner. Several publications will be produced during the year, 1963, concerning the Emancipation period and the history of the Negro in Illinois and the nation. These studies and writings explore and give new meaning to a neglected area of historial research.

It is our hope that there will dawn a new awareness of the contributions of all the citizens of Illinois to the growth and progress of our State. Negro youth need to identify with those who have created our heritage, and all youth of Illinois need to be cognizant of the variety of gifts and talents among all people. Such recognition will enhance the dignity of all our citizens and activate a new sense of appreciation of persons as persons—the acceptance of people upon the basis of worth instead of outworn stereotypes. Herein lies the philosophical basis of the program and goals set by the Commission."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission recommends the following:

1. The City of Chicago should assign a Professional Librarian to the George Cleveland Hall Library, 4801 South Michigan Avenue to bring up to date the special collection on Negro History and folk lore in Illinois.

2. A special section should be set aside in the Illinois State Archives for Negro History.

3. A Specialist in Negro History should be employed on the staff of the State Historian to build up this area for the Study of Negro Life and History.

4. Such materials as are left from the exhibits at the proposed exposition at McCormick Place and the Historymobile, shall be assembled and placed in the exhibit room of the Illinois State Archives.

5. The Commission shall be extended for the next biennium to carry forward the programs and projects now in progress during the year 1963.

6. Name should be changed from American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission to Illinois Emancipation Centennial Commission.

CHAPTER I

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The Commission is concerned that all citizens participate creatively in an historic movement which shall kindle a new sense of pride in the breast of our youth and move forward human relations in the State of Illinois, to new dimensions. WHAT THE COMMISSION DOES IS IMPORTANT, BUT THAT WHICH THE COMMISSION CAUSES TO BE DONE IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. The Commission employs the community organization process as the method for promoting its goals and programs.

The first step in planning for community programs is a survey of the community leadership structure by Commission members and staff. Then follows the selection of community leaders as Chairman and Co-chairman of the citizens movement. Preliminary conferences are held with leaders so selected, and names of citizens who will be volunteers are compiled. These citizens are then involved in the total program planning. Wide areas of discretion are left for the citizens so that the uniqueness of community mores' and customs may be expressed in the development of the programs for the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The resources of the Commission are placed at the disposal of the community groups, so as to support and sustain them in planning and carrying forward their programs. The focus of the Commission's interest is the stimulation of the citizens who are involved to have freedom in producing the kind of program which reflects the understanding and concern of the community in celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Another facet of the method of operation of the Commission is coordination of activities of miscellaneous groups interested in the celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation, and acting in a consulting role to many groups throughout the state and nation, on matters of programming, selection of materials and distribution of pertinent data and information concerning the movement in the state and nation, for the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Commission has been cooperating with the United States Commission on Civil Rights, in sharing with other state commissions and private agencies, throughout the country, its programs and plans for the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. This latter activity has resulted from a significant rapport with the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and its staff director, Berl Bernhard and his assistant, Franklin Whittaker.

One of the effective techniques discovered by the Commission was a two (2) prong-meeting, at which the Commission met in executive session during the day and a public meeting in the evening was sponsored for the citizens of the particular community where the Commission was meeting.

The sum total of the Commission's methods and techniques has been the pursuit of ways and means to involve citizens of all races, and classes, throughout the State of Illinois in planning and promoting programs and events, which commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in the State.

CHAPTER II

SIGNIFICANT and HISTORIC EVENTS

EMANCIPATION DAY CEREMONIES, sponsored by the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall, Chicago, September 21, 1962. Governor Otto Kerner presented a facsimile of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation to Mayor Richard J. Daley for exhibit in the rotunda of City Hall. The manuscript had been given to Governor Kerner by Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York. The principal speaker on this occasion was Mr. Berl Bernhard, staff director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Music was furnished by the a'cappella choir of the Hyde Park High School.

VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE, November 11, 1962. The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission cooperated with George L. Giles Post 87, American Legion, in a memorial service at the Monument to the Negro Soldier dead at 35th Street and South Parkway, Chicago. Chairman Corneal A. Davis read the text of the Emancipation Proclamation on this occasion.

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION WEEK, Governor Otto Kerner issued a Proclamation setting aside January 1 thru 9, 1963, as Emancipation Proclamation Week. Mayor Richard J. Daley issued a similar Proclamation for the City of Chicago. Mayor Lester Collins of Springfield and Mayor Fields of East St. Louis also issued similar Proclamations.

Throughout Illinois, in many towns and villages, there were many displays on the Emancipation theme in stores and retail establishments, under the direction of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Mr. Joseph T. Meek, President.

On January 6, 1963, there was a religious program held at the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, where Judge Edith S. Sampson was the principal speaker. This program was under the leadership of Dr. J. Alfred Wilson, Chairman of the Religious Emphasis Sub-Committee, appointed by Dr. Edwin Lee, Chairman, with Attorney Edward G. Pree, Jr., Co-Chairman of the Springfield Citizens Committee. The program was witnessed and attended by many citizens of Springfield, who filled the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, where Abraham Lincoln and family once attended, and now Dr. Paul Graebel is the distinguished minister.

AWARDS PROGRAM AND RECEPTION, on January 9, 1963. The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission sponsored an Awards Program and Reception at the Leland Hotel in Springfield. At this program, awards were given to distinguished Negro Americans, who had achieved outstanding 'firsts' in public affairs. Senator Leroy Johnson, the first Negro Senator elected to a state legislature from the deep south, since Reconstruction Days, was the principal speaker. Awards were given to the following persons:

Honorable Leroy Johnson, Senator, Georgia
Honorable Verda F. Welcome, Senator, Maryland
Honorable Edith S. Sampson, Judge, Municipal Court of Chicago

Judge Scovel Richardson, Chairman of United States Board of Parole, New York City
Judge James B. Parsons, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Judge Otis N. Smith, Supreme Court, Michigan
Honorable Edward W. Brooks, Attorney General, Massachusetts
Honorable Gerald A. Lamb, State Treasurer, Connecticut
Honorable William Sylvester White, Director, Department of Registration and Education, Illinois
Honorable Joseph D. Bibb, Director, Department of Public Safety, Illinois

Special Awards were also given to Honorable Otto Kerner, Governor, Honorable Charles F. Carpentier, Secretary of State, Honorable William G. Clark, Attorney General, and Dr. Clyde C. Walton, State Historian, for their special contributions to the promotion of the Commission's program in the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary in Illinois.

Mr. James P. Bolinger, President and General Manager of the Leland Hotel, was also given a special award for pioneering, in opening the facilities of the Leland Hotel to all Americans, regardless of race, creed or color.

PILGRIMAGE TO LINCOLN'S TOMB. Prior to the Awards Program and Reception, there was a pilgrimage to the tomb of Lincoln. The distinguished guests, who received awards, participated in laying a wreath at the base of the tomb of Lincoln, the great Emancipator. Mr. George Cashman, Vice-Chairman of the Springfield Citizens Committee, was host for this occasion and told the gripping story of the burial of Lincoln and significant events surrounding his tomb.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND RACE. Perhaps the greatest conference ever held in America on the problem of race and religion, took place at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, from January 14 - 17, 1963. The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission had an exhibit at the conference in the lobby of the Hotel, where many viewed the various items of historic interest, which were part of the exhibit. Chairman Corneal A. Davis, and Vice-Chairman William H. Robinson represented the State of Illinois Commission at the above conference.

LAUNCHING OF THE HISTORYMOBILE, on Friday, February 22, 1963. The Commission sponsored a program which launched the travels of the Historymobile throughout the State of Illinois during 1963, under the direction of Dr. Clyde C. Walton, State Historian. This program was highlighted by a scholarly address of Alex Small, famed writer of the Chicago Tribune. The Harrison Technical High School Band and the Wendell Phillips High School a'cappella choir rendered music. The Chicago Teachers Union, Mr. John M. Fewkes, President, through its Human Relations Committee, Mrs. Arnita Parker, Chairman, provided the student audience at this history-making affair. There were approximately twenty-five schools represented. The Chicago Teachers Union refunded carfare to teachers and students who attended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS and EMERGING PROGRAMS

Historymobile - The Historymobile is a trailer donated by Cononel Robert R. McCormick to the State of Illinois. During the year 1963, it will contain Mobile exhibits of the Civil War period, the Emancipation era and the Progress of the Negro during 100 years of freedom.

On February 22nd, it began its travels across the state. At each stop across the prairies of Illinois, appropriate ceremonies will take place to launch the viewing of the exhibit of significant events in the Emancipation story.

On March 24, 1963, the Historymobile will stop in Oak Park, at Freedom Hall, where Representative Corneal A. Davis, Chairman of the Commission, will deliver the principal address.

On May 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, the Historymobile will be in front of the Pere Marquette Hotel, in Peoria, at the Illinois State Dental Society's Annual meeting. The Commission will sponsor, in cooperation with the Illinois State Dental Society, a gigantic community meeting, which will launch the Historymobile in the Peoria area.

Many requests are now coming into the office for the appearance of the Historymobile in towns, cities, and villages throughout the State. These requests are coming from schools, civic organizations, libraries, and many other community groups. These appearances will be made throughout the year, 1963.

The Historymobile, which has been prepared under the direction of Dr. Clyde C. Walton, State Historian, has proved to be a popular project which implements the educational focus of the program of the Commission.

Essay Contest - From the beginning, the Commission has been concerned that a lasting impression should be made upon the youth of the state in the area of greater understanding of the history of the Emancipation and the progress which has been made by the Negro during 100 years of Freedom. The Essay contest is a project which will attempt to implement this concept.

The Essay Contest has been launched, under the direction of Mrs. Olive S. Foster of the Illinois Historical Library, who is the Editor of Illinois History, a magazine for young people. Pupils in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades may participate in the writing of articles which should treat some aspect of the theme "One Hundred Years of Freedom." Rules and Regulations concerning the Essay Contest have been issued to the various schools, and pledges of cooperation have been received from many schools throughout the State of Illinois. The ten (10) outstanding articles will be published in the Illinois History Magazine, and the winners of the contest will receive commemorative awards, $25.00 in cash, and be guests at the Governor's Mansion, where

the awards will be presented in December, 1963. All articles must be submitted to Mrs. Foster, Illinois Historical Library, by October 1, 1963.

In addition to the above awards, the Illinois Dental Society will give other awards of Government Bonds to winners.

Regional Meetings to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary. One of the goals of the Commission is to carry the message of the meaning of the Emancipation to strategic areas throughout the State. In many of the regions of the State, there are rich and rare history and folklore which may be used as part of the Centennial Anniversary Celebration. The Commission will set up in these various areas Citizens Committees, who will plan programs and mobilize the total community to join in massive celebrations of the Centennial Anniversary. These meetings will involve all the citizens of the community so that the message flowing from these activities will improve human relations.

Wherever possible, the above programs shall be built around the appearance of the Historymobile. Also the Commission will attempt to present distinguished Negro Americans and others to speak, so as to inform and inspire citizens of our State. The total appeal will be to the minds, the hearts and the consciences of the citizens of Illinois.

Program planning for the regional meetings is now in process for the following cities: Alton, Cairo, East St. Louis, Peoria, Rockford, the tri-cities, (Rock Island, Moline and East Moline) and Shawneetown. The program at Shawneetown will involve the whole region of Southern Illinois, where a religious anniversary will be held for celebrating 123 years of history of a Baptist Association.

Publications by the Commission - One of the characteristics of the program of the Commission is its emphasis upon providing creative writing of lasting value for the people of the State, and having a concern that there shall be original research about the Emancipation Proclamation era in Illinois, the great men who were part of the unfolding historic drama of this period, and the contributions of Negro Americans to the life and history of the state.

During the autumn of 1963, there will be published a special issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, which will deal with the Emancipation period. A dozen or more articles about the Negro in Illinois and after the Emancipation, will be written by distinguished scholars under the direction of Dr. Clyde C. Walton. More than 25,000 copies of this special issue of the Journal will be widely distributed among the leaders of thought and makers of public opinion throughout the state.

Another document in preparation is an outline history of the Negro in Illinois. This will be an illustrated pamphlet which will tell the story of outstanding Negro Americans from Illinois, and their contribution to our society.

Dr. Clyde C. Walton is directing the production of this document and is the editor. Mr. Charles Davis is working at the direction of the Chairman, in gathering biographical materials about distinguished Negroes of Illinois, which may be included in this document.

This pamphlet "Negro Makers of History in Illinois", will be distributed at the Illinois exhibit, during the proposed Century of Negro Progress Exposition at McCormick Place in Chicago from August 16th thru September 2, 1963. More than one hundred thousand copies of this pamphlet will be printed and also distributed to schools, libraries, historical societies, and to other groups throughout the state.

Participation in American Legion Spectactular - Plans are being made for the production of a 30 minute musical presentation of the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the story of the Negro 100 years after. This feature is under the direction of Mr. Walter H. Dyett in cooperation with the Chicago Park District.

The Illinois Exhibit at McCormick Place, Chicago, August 16 thru September 2, 1963 - The Illinois exhibit will be sponsored in collaboration with the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority. This exhibit will portray the 100th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, with great emphasis upon the role of Lincoln in the Emancipation. His personality and historic role will dominate the total presentation, as the great Emancipator. The design of the exhibit will give Americans of all races and creeds an opportunity to pause and reflect on our heritage of 'free men in a free society'. It will show the history and progress of the American Negro and his contribution to the American way of life, during the 100 years since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Implicit in this design will be the behavior of a democratic society in relationship to a minority group which will give the 'lie' to communist propaganda.

One of the features of the Illinois Exhibit will be a series of paintings, produced by artists, commissioned by the American Negro Emancipation Commission. These paintings will be artistically distributed throughout the exhibit and will portray men and moments in the history of the Negro with special emphasis on Abraham Lincoln, and his relationship to Negroes in his private and public life.

The Illinois exhibit will be one of many exhibits in the gigantic panorama of historic portrayals of the story of the American Negro throughout the nation during 100 years of freedom. This story will be told in song, drama, paintings, and pageantry. During the period from August 16th to September 2nd, the citizens of the nation will come to McCormick Place in Chicago, to witness a Century of Negro Progress, under the direction of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, of which Mr. Alton A. Davis is Executive Director and Dr. J. H. Jackson is President.

A P P E N D I X E S

The interest, enthusiasm, industry and participation of the members of the Commission and various state officials can be best discerned in the activities which are highlighted in the meetings and conferences held.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

A. Organizational Meeting of The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission - Wednesday, February 14, 1962, Governor's Conference Room, 21st floor, 160 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The members of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission, which was created by House Bill 1409, met in the first meeting on the above date at 10:00 A.M. for the purpose of organization. Representative Corneal A. Davis, presided.

Members Present: Senators Paul Graham, John P. Meyer, Representatives Corneal A. Davis, J. Horace Gardner, William H. Robinson, Kenneth E. Wilson, Reverend Wm. P. Alexander, Dr. Philip M. Hauser, Mr. John H. Johnson, Mr. Stanley L. Johnson, Mrs. Edith S. Sampson, Mr. Clyde C. Walton, ex-officio.

Regrets: Senators Marshall Korshak, Fred Smith, Arthur R. Gottschalk, Representative William Pierce, Honorable Charles F. Carpentier, ex-officio.

Prayer was offered by the Reverend William P. Alexander.

As chief sponsor of the bill (HB-1409) which created the Commission, Representative Corneal A. Davis explained the call of the meeting. He read pertinent excerpts from the bill which describes its purposes and provisions. (Copies of this bill shall be furnished each member of the Commission.)

Roll Call was taken and Representative Davis introduced each of the 12 members who were present.

Representative William H. Robinson nominated Representative Corneal A. Davis as temporary Chairman. Senator John P. Meyer seconded the motion which was carried.

Representative Davis stated that it is the usual procedure that the first Vice-Chairman should be nominated from the opposite party and suggested Representative William H. Robinson for first vice-chairman. On a motion by Senator Meyer, seconded by Representative Kenneth E. Wilson, Representative Robinson was nominated. The motion was carried.

On a motion by Mr. John H. Johnson, seconded by Representative J. Horace Gardner, Mrs. Edith S. Sampson was nominated Secretary to the Commission. The motion was carried.

On a motion by Representative Kenneth Wilson, seconded by Dr. Philip M. Hauser, the temporary officers were unanimously elected as permanent officers for the Commission. The motion was carried.

After general discussion by the group concerning the proposed expense allowances, it was moved by Senator Meyer, seconded by Representative Wilson, that expense allowances for Commission members should be adopted as follows:

Hotel - Chicago and out of state cities $15.00, downstate $12.00 per day.
Meals - $10.00 per day.
Travel - 10 cents a mile.
Incidentals - $5.00 per day.
(Chicago members, when meetings are held in the city will receive meals and incidentals.)

As the next order of business, Representative Gardner moved that the Chairman should be authorized by the Commission to appoint a secretary and other staff as needed for the Commission, also to process necessary forms with the Department of Finance and State Auditor of Public Accounts. The motion was seconded by Reverend Wm. P. Alexander and adopted. It was also moved by Representative Gardner, seconded by Rev. Wm. P. Alexander, that the Chairman or in his absence the vice-chairman, shall have the power to sign and process necessary expenditure vouchers for the Commission. The motion was carried.

Mr. Stanley Johnson inquired concerning the location of permanent headquarters of the Commission. The Chairman stated that office space was being sought at reasonable rental. It is doubtful that space in the State building can be obtained because of limited space available. Each member shall be notified when permanent office space has been obtained.

Dr. Hauser suggested that each member shall also receive a list of the Commission membership with their addresses and affiliations.

There was enthusiastic discussion of plans and proposals for the Commission. Mrs. Edith Sampson expressed the hope that the Commission will be able to make a significant contribution to the national celebration of the Emancipation Centennial. She felt strongly that the Commission, above and beyond satisfying the statutory mandate of the legislature, could perform a unique service in increasing understanding concerning the important role the Negro has played in the growth and progress of our society.

Representative Robinson agreed with Mrs. Sampson and stated further that the program of this Commission must be designed to create a 'new image' of the Negro. As one of the co-sponsors of H.B. 1409, which created the Commission, he stated that the original thinking was to go into the downstate communities where there are pockets of Negroes in the population, which have been there for generations and secure their participation in the exposition, as a way of sharing with them knowledge of the contribution of Negroes in our society.

Senator Meyer also felt that the Commission has a great opportunity to make statewide, as well as a national contribution, and hoped that teachers and

schools in the downstate area will certainly be included in the program of the Commission, because of the rich historical background of the Negro which in a large measure is unknown to them.

Senator Paul Graham suggested that it might be wise to appoint local chairmen to mobilize the people and acquaint them with the Commission's program throughout the State.

Mr. Clyde Walton, a member of the Civil War Centennial Commission, commented that the program of this Commission seems confused and without direction because of the adverse reactions by some of the southern states, and unfavorable publicity resulting therefrom. He felt that the Illinois Commission must be objective and historically sound in its approach and presentation.

Dr. Hauser thought that the Commission should concentrate on the history of the Negro in Illinois during the Emancipation Centennial Anniversary and let no obstacles interfere.

Chairman Davis expressed appreciation for the concerns of the members in achieving the goals of the Commission. He agreed with Dr. Hauser in his observation that the Commission must concentrate on a Centennial for the people of Illinois.

Chairman Davis appointed the following Committees:

1. Publication - Mr. John H. Johnson, Chairman, Rep. Wilson, Dr. Hauser and Mr. Walton.

2. Exhibits - Mr. Clyde C. Walton, Chairman, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Pierce, Senator Gottschalk.

3. Research - Dr. Philip M. Hauser, Chairman, Senator Meyer, Rep. K. Wilson, Mr. Walton, Hon. Charles F. Carpentier.

4. Public Relations - Mrs. Edith S. Sampson, Chairman, Senator Graham, Sen. Korshak, Rep. Robinson.

5. Finance - Representative Corneal A. Davis, Chairman, Rev. Wm. P. Alexander, Senator Korshak, Senator Smith.

6. Executive - Representative Corneal A. Davis, Chairman, Rep. Robinson, Sen. Meyer, Mrs. Edith Sampson, Sen. Smith.

Dr. Hauser suggested utilizing citizen based sub-committees on various aspects of the exposition in an advisory capacity, by selecting high caliber of persons from colleges, universities, and the community at large. Representative Davis thought this was a very good suggestion and should be given consideration at an early meeting.

There was a motion by Representative Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Sampson, that the main item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Commission should be a presentation from the national organization of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, to provide the group with orientation and background information, relating to the organization, its purpose, objectives and scope for the exposition in 1963, also its financial status. The motion was carried.

Representative Davis stated that he would invite the following persons to the next meeting of the Commission to make the above presentations:

Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, President
Mr. James E. Stamps, Chairman, Trustee Board
Mr. Alton Davis, Vice-President, Executive Director and Founder of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 1962 at 10:00 A.M. in the Governor's Conference Room, 160 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, on the 21st floor.

The meeting closed with a luncheon which had been arranged by the Chairman.

APPROVED BY:

Representative Corneal A. Davis, Chairman

Mrs. Edith S. Sampson, Secretary

B. MEETING OF MARCH 15, 1962, in the Governor's Conference Room, 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago. At this meeting, the principal item on the agenda was the presentation of the program of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., by Dr. J. H. Jackson, President, Mr. James E. Stamps, Chairman of Trustee Board, Mr. Alton A. Davis, Vice-President and Executive Director, and Mr. Edward Sutorius, Director of Exhibits for the Century of Progress Exposition.

The purpose of this meeting was to initiate the collaboration between the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc. and the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission. During the executive session of the Commission, certain questions were raised by members about the structure and administration of the Authority, which were pertinent to the clarification of its legal status, which would satisfy the provisions of The Charitable Trust Act, so that collaboration could be feasible and valid.

C. EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION and PUBLIC CITIZENS COMMITTEE MEETING on May 29-30,1962, at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

In the executive meeting of the Commission, the Chairman reported on the

establishment of permanent offices for the Commission at 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Room 1301, Chicago. The Chairman reported that major items of furnishings for the offices were obtained without cost to the Commission, from various state agencies through the Surplus Property Department. The Gestetner Corporation, a private company, provided office machinery on a loan basis, and has maintained service of this machinery by its technicians and service men, without cost, as their contribution to the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Chairman Davis also reported on a visit to Washington, D. C. to attend a 'Diplomat Luncheon' on May 24, 1962, in which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman participated in preliminary planning for the participation of African nations, in the proposed Century of Progress Exposition at Mc Cormick Place, Chicago, from August 16 thru September 2, 1963, under the auspices of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc.

During the executive meeting, the Chairman appointed a sub-committee to examine and evaluate documents presented by the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., which purported to meet the objections raised by the Commission in its meeting on March 15, 1962.

While in Carbondale, a later meeting was held with citizens of the community in the University Center at Southern Illinois University. The arrangements for the meetings at the University were made by Dr. William J. Tudor and staff.

D. SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 14, 1962. On this date, the sub-committee appointed by the Chairman, to review the Constitution and By-Laws of the Authority, met in the Commission offices, Chicago. This committee refined and specified in detail, the objections to which adequate response should be made by the Authority, before collaboration between the State agency and the Authority could be consummated. At the meeting, Assistant Attorney General Bernard Genis, was a consultant and advisor from the office of the Attorney General.

E. MEETING BETWEEN THE AMERICAN NEGRO EMANCIPATION CENTENNIAL COMMISSION and THE AMERICAN NEGRO EMANCIPATION CENTENNIAL AUTHORITY TRUSTEE BOARD.

On June 29, 1962, the Commission met at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago. This was a meeting of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc. and the Commission, for the purpose of having the Authority to appropriately respond to objections raised by the members of the Commission in its executive session on March 15, 1962, and sub-committee meeting on June 14, 1962, relating to the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc.

The clarification sought in this meeting was for the purpose of creating rapport between the Commission and the Authority in collaborating in the promoting of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, as indicated in House Bill 1409, which created the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission in Illinois.

F. EXECUTIVE MEETING, EMANCIPATION DAY CEREMONIES and PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL PROGRAM at the Chicago Historical Society, September 21, 1962.

The highlights of the executive meeting were as follows:

1. Report by Chairman that the Authority had submitted a copy of a resolution adopted by their board, amending the provisions of their Constitution and By-Laws, in compliance with the request of the Commission, with the execption of a final audit.

2. At this meeting, proposals for exhibits at the Century of Progress Exposition were discussed. The Chairman stated that two (2) proposals had been submitted to the Commission for consideration. Mr. Edward Sutorius, Managing Director of the Exposition for the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., had presented a blueprint for an exhibit for the Illinois State Commission. The estimated cost was $76,025.00. Mr. Sutorius was directed by the Commission to give detailed descriptions of the items of cost in the proposal. Mr. Leroy Winbush, Winbush Associates, proposed that he should be retained, by the Commission, at a fee of $1,500.00 as a consultant to prepare an estimate of a sample draft of an exhibit.

3. At this meeting, the Chairman presented a brief summary of proposed programs and exhibits of the Commission. He was authorized by the Commission to proceed with the necessary planning for the programs and goals of the Commission.

The meeting adjourned in the City Hall, to participate in ceremonies which opened the exhibits of the Emancipation Proclamation in the Rotunda of the City Hall of Chicago. At this program, Mr. Berl Bernhard, staff director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, from Washington, D. C., was guest speaker.

Emancipation Day Ceremonies - Governor Otto Kerner presented to Mayor Richard J. Daley, a copy of the facsimile of the original document of the Emancipation Proclamation, given to him by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York. Appropriate remarks were made by Governor Kerner, Mayor Daley and Secretary of State, Charles F. Carpentier.

Civil War Centennial Program - On the evening of September 21st, at 6:00 P.M., the Commission cooperated with the Chicago Historical Society in Emancipation ceremonies, at which Bell I. Wiley, distinguished scholar of the Civil War period, from Emory University of Atlanta, Georgia was the principal speaker.

G. EXECUTIVE MEETING AND PUBLIC CITIZENS MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS on December 13, 1962.

The Commission met in executive session at the Capitol Building, Room M-5, at 2:00 P.M. on December 13th. The principal items on the agenda for this meeting were:

1. Review of Commission's relationship with the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority.

2. Issuance of Proclamations for Emancipation Week, January 1 - 9, 1963.
3. Planning for Awards Program and Reception in Springfield on January 9th.
4. Report by Dr. Walton on Publications.

Chairman Davis reported that on December 7, 1962, there had been a meeting called by the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, at the Parkway Ballroom in Chicago at 12:00 noon. The purpose of this meeting was to bring the Commission and the Authority together to ascertain the status of the programs and activities of the state Commission and the Authority, and also, to adopt a working agreement between the two agencies. This agreement proposed by the Commission was approved and adopted by the Authority and the Commission. (A copy of the Agreement was distributed to all members of the Commission and the Authority, and filed with the offices of the Governor and the Attorney General.)

PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN NEGRO EMANCIPATION CENTENNIAL COMMISSION AND THE AMERICAN NEGRO EMANCIPATION CENTENNIAL AUTHORITY, INC.

The Commission proposes to recommend to Governor Kerner the following action and agreement:

The American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission agrees with the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., that the Commission will collaborate with the Authority by purchasing space and having an exhibit at the proposed Exposition to be held by the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority at McCormick Place, from August 16 thru September 2, 1963.

The space to be purchased and the nature of the exhibit will depend upon the recommendations of the staff and specialists in the Governor's office, since under the terms of the bill the Governor must specifically authorize and approve payment of funds for such purposes.

At the above meeting, Mr. Alton Davis, Executive Director of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., briefly described the Authority's activities as follows: a new board of directors had been appointed, and the Constitution and By-Laws have now been changed to agree with the request of the Commission, in accordance with a promise to the Attorney General of the state of Illinois. Since the Authority operates under The Charitable Trust Act, it will be the responsibility to submit a monthly report of its financial records to the Attorney General and the Commission, or whom ever may wish to view these records. Mr. Alton Davis stated that the financial records are audited by Jones & Anderson C.P.A. Company. He further stated that the American City Bureau is now in charge of fund raising activities for the Authority. On December 4th, the Authority launched its fund raising campaign, by kicking a huge ball along LaSalle Street, which was attended by many distinguished business men and prominent citizens of Chicago.

The Chairman stated that the Commission had decided to set aside January 1 thru 9, as Emancipation week, and to request issuance of Proclamations by the Governor, Mayor Daley of Chicago, and other officials throughout the State for this purpose. With the cooperation of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Mr. Joseph T. Meek, President, all business men are requested and urged to place appropriate displays, in their business establishments, around the Emancipation theme,

during Emancipation Week. The Commission purchased 200 copies, from the National Archives, of the facsimile of the original Emancipation Proclamation document, which may be used in the displays. These are available to schools, libraries, churches and other civic groups.

A special Awards Day Program and Reception will be sponsored by the Commission at the Leland Hotel on January 9, 1963, on the evening of the opening day of the legislature. The Chairman stated that the Commission proposed to present awards to various distinguished Negroes, who had made significant and outstanding contributions to our society in the area of public affairs.

On this same day, there will be a pilgrimage to the tomb of Lincoln, where Commission members, Springfield citizens and distinguished guests will lay a wreath. He stated that the detail planning for the events on January 9th, will be under the direction of the Springfield Citizens Committee, which was scheduled to meet on this evening at 7:00 p.m. in Dr. Edwin A. Lee's Medical Center, 501 South 13th Street, Springfield.

Dr. Clyde Walton gave a brief report on the publications of the Commission. He stated that the "Quickie" pamphlet which is a calendar of events of the Commission, had been promised by the printer for the last week in December. The Illinois Journal will be ready for the fall issue of 1963. Mrs. Olive S. Foster, has prepared the necessary rules and regulations for the Essay Contest, among school children, and preparation for the Winner's ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in December, is already under way.

There was unanimous expression by members present that the mandate of the bill which created the Commission, is being achieved in a very sound and practical way.

At 7:00 p.m., the Commission met with Citizens of Springfield in the Recreation Room of Dr. Edwin A. Lee's Medical Center, to discuss plans and programs for commemorating the Emancipation Week, January 1 - 9, 1963, in Springfield.

The following Citizens were present: Mrs. William Berry, George P. Cashman, Roy McClanahan, Comer L. Cox, Atty. Clarence B. Davis, Dick Emery, Harry Hale, Hiram E. Jackson, Jr., George S. Jefferson, Robert L. Jones, James A. Johnson, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaines, Rev. Thomas M. Gibson, Mrs. Georgia Hale, Mrs. Martha Hammons, Rev. Glenn A. Kniss, Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lockhart, Rev. Negil L. McPherson, Charles T. Spencer, Mrs. Beatrice Vinson, Rev. W. R. Stewart, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Stuart, Miss Bennie Softlay, Tinnie Walker, John G. Webster, Dr. D. E. Webster, Rev. J. Alfred Wilson, John A. Wilson, Mrs. Marcella Woodson, Charles A. Young, Simeon Osby, Atty. Edward G. Pree, Jr., and Mrs. Alberta D. Brooks.

The purpose of this meeting was to describe the projected program of the Commission for the initial event celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 9, 1963. Further, the meeting was one to mobolize the citizens of Springfield to assist in the promotion and carrying forward of this event.

The Chairman stated that the initial program of the Centennial Anniversary year will be an "AWARDS PROGRAM AND RECEPTION" at the Leland Hotel on January 9th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Awards will be given to distinguished living Negro Americans who have achieved outstanding 'firsts' in the area of public affairs.

The Citizens Committee will participate with the Commission in promoting the program on January 9th, cooperating in the observance of the Emancipation week and sabbath, and enlisting business men to place appropriate displays in their establishments around the Emancipation theme during Emancipation week, January 1 thru January 9.

In implementing the program for January 9th, citizens are asked to cooperate in the following activities:

1. Mailing of invitations.
2. Meeting the dignitaries at Railroad stations and the Airport.
3. Arranging and participating in a pilgrimage to the tomb of Lincoln, where a wreath will be placed.
4. Securing musical numbers for program.
5. Appointment of hostesses for the Reception.
6. Appointment of a special committee to entertain distinguished guests.

The following persons were selected as Chairmen for various facets of the program as indicated above:

Dr. Edwin Lee and Attorney Edward G. Pree, Jr., Chairmen, Citizens Committee.
Mr. George P. Cashman, Vice-Chairman, Citizens Committee.
Mrs. Alberta Draper Brooks, Secretary, Citizens Committee.

Sub-Committee:

Religious Emphasis - Dr. J. Alfred Wilson, Chairman, Rev. Glenn A. Kniss, Co-Chairman, Father Thomas Gibson, Secretary, Rev. Negil McPherson and Rev. W. R. Stewart.

Business Men Committee - Mr. Comer L. Cox, Chairman, Mr. George Jefferson, Co-Chairman

Publicity - Mr. Simeon Osby and Mr. Johnson Kanady

Caravan Escort - Mr. Roy McClanahan

Special Responsibilities - Mr. Cashman assumed responsibility to obtain a wreath to be placed on Lincoln's tomb. Dr. Lee and Attorney Pree will see the Mayor of Springfield and request that he issues a Proclamation similar to the one issued by the Governor and the Mayor of Chicago.

H. EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION and LAUNCHING OF HISTORYMOBILE CEREMONY on Friday, February 22, 1963.

The Commission met in an executive session on the above date at 10:00 A.M. in the offices of the Commission. The Chairman gave a progress report on programs and activities of the Commission to date, since the last meeting.

On January 14 - 17, 1963, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended the National Conference on Religion and Race, held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, where the Commission had an exhibit. This exhibit was assembled by Charles Davis & Associates, and received many compliments. The Vice-Chairman, Representative Robinson, spoke at the luncheon on January 15th, and brought greetings from the state Commission to this hostoric conference.

A sub-committee of the Commission, composed of Judge Edith Sampson, Representative Kenneth Wilson, Senator Fred J. Smith and the Chairman, participated in a conference at the United States Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D. C., on February 12, 1963. This conference with Mr. Franklin Whittaker, coordinator for the Civil Rights Commission, related to the participation of the Federal Government in the proposed exposition to be promoted by the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., at McCormick Place from August 16 thru September 2, 1963.

At this conference, it was determined that a later meeting should be held with various persons from several governmental departments, who would discuss specific exhibits to be placed by the said departments in the proposed exposition. Mr. Whittaker consented that the United States Commission on Civil Rights would initiate the proposed conference and notify the Commission and the Authority when such conference would be held.

Copies of a special report, prepared by the United States Commission on Civil Rights on 100 years of Freedom, were given to each member present at the above conference. This report, entitled "Freedom to the Free" was reviewed by members present on this day, and it was unanimously agreed that the Commission should purchase copies of this report for distribution to outstanding leaders in Illinois.

On a motion by Representative Robinson, seconded by Reverend Mr. Alexander, the report on the sub-committee on the conference held in Washington, D.C. on February 12th, was approved and adopted. The motion was carried.

Pursuant to the above agreement between Mr. Franklin Whittaker of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and the sub-committee in the meeting on February 12th, it was planned that the Commission should be represented when the various department officials of the Federal Government assemble to hear the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority present its proposal. Representative Wilson moved, Reverend Mr. Alexander seconded, that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should go to Washington, D.C. to be present in the conference between ANECA, various governmental departmental officials, and the United States Commission on Civil Rights. The motion was carried.

Dr. Walton observed that the Illinois Historical Library is weak in the materials concerning Negro History. He suggested that a special room should be set aside for this purpose, and also that an amendment should be made to the legislature for an appropriation of $15,000, to the State Historian's budget for the development of this facet.

Representative Robinson suggested that this should well become one of the recommendations by the Commission in its annual report. Senator John Meyer moved, Representative Pierce seconded, that the recommendation as suggested above, become a part of the Commission's report and Dr. Walton's budget be amended by the addition of $15,000. The motion was carried.

Chairman Davis stated that the final report of the Commission was due March 1st, but the nature of the activities of the Commission made it impossible to meet the deadline. There was general agreement by members present, that the Chairman should ask the legislature for an adequate extension of time for the submission of the biennial report. Also, the kind of future activities of the Commission causes this report to be in the nature of an interim progress report.

After general discussion of unfinished business and activities of the Commission, it was moved by Representative Wilson, seconded by Senator Meyer that a bill should be introduced into the legislature to recreate the Commission for the next biennium. The motion was carried.

The Chairman reported on the Historymobile, and explained that it was ready for the initial viewing today, February 22nd, at 2:00 P.M. in front of the Nathan Hale Court of the Chicago American and Chicago Tribune. At this special ceremony sponsored by the Commission, Mr. Alex Small, distinguished world traveler and writer, would deliver the inaugural address. Music would be furnished by the Wendell Phillips High School a'cappella Choir and the Harrison Technical High School Band. Colors would be posted by the Color Guards of the R.O.T.C. from Harrison High. Arrangements for the School and R.O.T.C. Color Guards were under the auspices of Mrs. Arnita Parker and Mr. John Fewkes, of the Chicago Teacher's Union. Mayor Daley, Governor Otto Kerner and Secretary of State Carpentier are to be honored guests at the Historymobile ceremony.

I. OBSERVATIONS ON IMPORTANT CONFERENCES:

A series of conferences were held by the officers and special sub-committees of the Commission with the Governor and his administrative assistants, members of the staff of the Attorney General's office, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority and various Exhibitors.

On September 14, 1962, officers and members of the Commission met with the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. At 10:00 A.M., the officers of the Commission met in Executive session with Mr. Berl Bernhard, staff director and Mr. Franklin Whittaker, coordinator. At this meeting there was a description of the program of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission of Illinois.

Mr. Berl Bernhard indicated the position of the United States Commission on Civil Rights in carrying forward the celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation. He stated that there was no special budget set aside for this purpose, since this program was the original function of the Civil War Centennial Commission, and had been separated from the program of the Civil War Centennial Commission and placed under the jurisdiction of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He further stated that the director of the budget had ruled that funds appropriated to the Civil War Centennial Commission could not be used by the United States Commission on Civil Rights in promoting the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Therefore, there was no possibility of grants in aid by the Federal Government to the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission.

The agenda for the 2:00 P.M. meeting with the full Commission was discussed.

At 2:00 P.M. on this date, the members of the Commission met with the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights and discussed the program of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission, and also the relationship between the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority and the state commission.

Mr. Berl Bernhard announced at this meeting that he would come to Chicago to participate in the ceremonies of the Commission, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on September 21, 1963.

Mr. Whittaker summarized what services the Federal Government could render to a State Commission. He indicated that a group of persons in New York City were planning a documentary to be promoted during 1963, which will tell the story of the Emancipation Proclamation and 100 years of freedom of the Negro. He expressed the wish that a sub-committee of the Commission might go to New York to confer with persons who were interested in the proposed documentary, namely: Mr. Kurt Lassen of East End Productions, Mr. Charles Fagan, Producer and Mr. Walter Cronkite of CBS. The staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights would arrange the conference in New York City and participate in it.

On September 27, 1962, a sub-committee of the Commission visited New York City and participated in a conference at the Over Seas Press Club, with the above persons and Mr. Franklin Whittaker of the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

The purpose of this conference was to investigate and explore the possibility of the participation of the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission of Illinois in the production of a documentary on the history of the Negro in the United States from 1863 to 1963.

Mr. Kurt Lassen briefly summarized the contents of the proposed documentary. Basically, the film will be divided into three parts, which will include much emphasis upon the role of Illinois and its great son Abraham Lincoln in this country.

1. The early history immediately following the Emancipation Proclamation up to the turn of the century.

2. The middle years up to the '40s.

3. The era of the '40s to the present.

The role of the Commission in this production will be twofold:

1. Financial participation.

2. Promotion and distribution of prints for educational purposes throughout the state of Illinois. (The prints which will be used in Illinois will have a tag at the beginning or the end in which the Governor of Illinois will make remarks.)

The suggested contribution for Illinois was $15,000. The cost of the prints for the 90 minute picture will be approximately $200.00. The prints will be given to the Commission without cost, because of its proposed contribution of $15,000. One of these will be a 16 mm film and the other a 35 mm film.

The proposed contribution to the production of the picture is predicated upon the development of the film. In the event the picture is not completed, the money will be returned to the state of Illinois. Conditions of this nature will be included in the type of contract which will be drawn with the Production Company. Also, there will be a representative from the Illinois Commission on the Advisory group for preparation of the script. Research for the picture which is related to Illinois history will be given to the Commission for its own use.

IMPRESSION OF SUB-COMMITTEE - The Sub-Committee was impressed with the presentation concerning the production, and felt that a documentary of this nature fulfills one of the goals of the Commission in disseminating knowledge to the Negro and the Emancipation Proclamation to all the people of the state of Illinois. The Sub-Committee suggested that this documentary may be shown in schools, churches and various community organizations.

As the summary suggested, this documentary would be ready for distribution on January 1, 1963, and a premier may be shown in Springfield to legislators and state officials prior to the Commission's great event on January 9, 1963.

DISPOSITION OF PROPOSAL - The Sub-Committee unanimously recommends that the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Commission shall participate in the production of this film and contribute $15,000. The Sub-Committee was unanimously also in the conclusion that this contribution is modest indeed when contemplated in the light of the benefits to be derived from this educational project.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission have kept in constant touch with the office of the Governor on each phase of the unfolding and development of the program of the Commission. Prior to each request for release of funds for carrying forward the programs of the Commission, conferences were held with the Governor and his administrative assistant, Mr. Richard Thorne. The complete details of all programs were discussed and cleared through Mr. Thorne and the office of the Governor.

There has been a series of conferences held with administrative assistants to the Governor, as to the relationship with the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc., in relation to the building of Exhibits for the Commission at McCormick Place, during the proposed Exposition from August 16 thru September 2, 1963. Proposals for exhibits have been received from Mr. Samuel Himmelfarb of Three Dimensions, Mr. Leroy Winbush, Winbush Associates and M. G. Design Associates, Inc. These Exhibitors took into consideration the use of paintings and materials proposed under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Burroughs, Director of the Ebony Museum in Chicago.

Governor Otto Kerner has maintained an active interest in all matters relating to the promotion of the Centennial Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in Illinois. From the very outset of the work of the Commission, Attorney General William G. Clark has been most cooperative in untangling the legal situation in the relationship of the Commission to the American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, Inc.. Secretary of State Charles F. Carpentier has placed the facilities of his office at the disposal of the Commission, and constantly met with the Commission and helped to give guidance and direction to its program and activities.

Dr. Clyde C. Walton, state Historian, has been most helpful in giving to the Commission the resources of his office in publications and the development of the research and educational approach of the Commission's programs and goals.

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